

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

14. (Previously Presented) A disposable absorbent article having a pair of side edges and a pair of end edges, said disposable absorbent article comprising:
a containment assembly, defining a containment assembly area, said containment assembly comprising a topsheet, a backsheet, an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of elasticized leg cuffs that are disposed inboard of said side edges of said disposable absorbent article; and
a pair of side panels joined to the containment assembly and defining side panel areas, each side panel comprising a securement member, wherein each securement member extends outboard of its respective side panel, wherein the backsheet comprises a plastic film and a nonwoven web, said plastic film having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein said plastic film is disposed only in said containment assembly area, wherein said nonwoven web is joined to the outer surface of said plastic film such that the nonwoven web covers the entire outer surface of the plastic film and is disposed on said containment assembly area and said side panel areas,

wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbonded nonwoven web comprising spunbonded bi-component plastic fibers.
15. (Canceled)
16. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein the bi-component fibers comprise a polyethylene and a polypropylene.

17. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 16 wherein the bi-component fibers have a core made of the polypropylene and a sheath made of the polyethylene.
18. (Previously presented) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 17 wherein the bi-component fibers have from about 55% to about 95% by weight of the polyethylene.
19. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 14 wherein the spunbonded nonwoven web is placed in the disposable absorbent article so that the fiber direction of the spunbonded bi-component plastic fibers is aligned with the longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent article.
20. (Original) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 19 wherein the spunbonded nonwoven web has a tensile strength of at least 80 gf/cm in the traverse direction of the disposable absorbent article.
21. (Canceled)
22. (Canceled)
23. (Previously Presented) A disposable absorbent article having a rear waist region, a front waist region, a crotch region disposed between the rear and front waist regions, a pair of side edges and a pair of end edges, said disposable absorbent article comprising:
a containment assembly, defining a containment assembly area, said containment assembly comprising a liquid pervious topsheet, a liquid impervious backsheet, an absorbent core disposed between the topsheet and the backsheet, and a pair of elasticized leg cuffs that are disposed onto said liquid pervious topsheet inboard of said side edges of said disposable absorbent article; and
a pair of side panels joined to the containment assembly at the rear waist region and defining side panel areas, each side panel comprising a securement member that extends outboard of the corresponding side panel, wherein the backsheet comprises a plastic film

and a nonwoven web, said plastic film having an inner surface and an outer surface, wherein said plastic film is disposed only in said containment assembly area, wherein said nonwoven web is joined to the outer surface of said plastic film such that the nonwoven web covers substantially all of the outer surface of the plastic film and is disposed on said containment assembly area, said nonwoven web and said plastic film forming a laminate, wherein the nonwoven web is a spunbonded nonwoven web comprising spunbonded bi-component plastic fibers.

24. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein the bi-component fibers comprise a polyethylene and a polypropylene.
25. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 24 wherein the bi-component fibers have a core made of the polypropylene and a sheath made of the polyethylene.
26. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 25 wherein the bi-component fibers have from about 55% to about 95% by weight of the polyethylene.
27. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 23 wherein the spunbonded nonwoven web is placed in the disposable absorbent article so that the fiber direction of the spunbonded bi-component plastic fibers is aligned with the longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent article.
28. (New) The disposable absorbent article of Claim 27 wherein the spunbonded nonwoven web has a tensile strength of at least 80 gf/cm in the traverse direction of the disposable absorbent article.